

From the Author.

ACCOUNT

OF

PERSONS CONFINED FOR DEBT,

IN

ENGLAND AND WALES.



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ACCOUNT
OF
PERSONS CONFINED FOR DEBT,
IN THE
VARIOUS PRISONS
OF
ENGLAND AND WALES;
TOGETHER WITH THEIR
PROVISIONARY ALLOWANCE
DURING CONFINEMENT:

AS REPORTED TO THE
Society for the Discharge and Relief of Small Debtors,
In APRIL, MAY, JUNE, &c. 1800.

BY
JAMES NEILD, Esq. TREASURER.

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1800.



TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD ROMNEY,
PRESIDENT
OF THE
SOCIETY FOR THE DISCHARGE AND RELIEF OF
PERSONS IMPRISONED FOR SMALL DEBTS.

My Lord,

THE patronage of your noble Father to this Society, in the infancy of its institution, was an auspicious presage of its success.

To your LORDSHIP's unremitting assiduities it is indebted, in a great measure, for its present celebrity and estimation.

The Author of the following REPORT was stimulated to the pursuit of inquiries, which have at length produced it, by the excessive dearness of provisions, and the difficulties of the poorer classes of mankind even to exist.

DEDICATION.

If this humble endeavour to display that extreme distress, to which the indigent (though not fraudulent) *debtor* is reduced, may prove the means of ameliorating his hapless condition, it will afford the highest gratification to,

MY LORD,

Your LORDSHIP'S

Most faithful and obedient servant,

Chelsea,
4th June, 1800.

JAMES NEILD.

ADVERTISEMENT.

To the considerate reader of the following statement a few observations must naturally occur.

He will feel for *their* pitiable situation, who, though confined in prison, have, in some instances, no support at all provided for them: in many, scarcely bread to eat sufficient to sustain life; and whose case, therefore, very powerfully calls for the humane interposition of the magistrate. He will find, with painful astonishment, that, after eight and twenty years since the institution of the Society for the Relief and Discharge of Debtors, no less than twenty-five prisons in England and Wales—some of them in large populous towns, and others very near the metropolis—have “never heard of” so amiable and excellent a charity! The fact is on record, from the avowal of the respective gaolers; and it must have considerably lessened the intended benefit deducible from the SOCIETY’s plan.

The Committee have now distributed their painted *Boards of Instruction* throughout the various gaols; and sincerely hope that the magistracy, in every district of the kingdom, will kindly further the views of this Society, by an occasional inquiry into the state of *imprisoned DEBTORS*; and by an inspection, now and then, into the manner of their treatment and accommodation in the dreary abodes of human wretchedness.

“ Ah ! little think the gay, licentious proud,
“ Whom Pleasure, Power and Affluence surround ;
“ They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth
“ And wanton, often cruel riot, waste ;
“ Ah ! little think they, while they dance along,
“ How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms,
“ Shut from the common air, and common use
“ Of their own limbs ! How many drink the cup
“ Of baleful Grief, or eat the bitter bread
“ Of Misery !—For, sure, th' awakening thought
“ The conscious heart of Charity would warm ;
“ The social tear would rise, the social sigh ;
“ The social passions work !”

THOMSON.

ACCOUNT, &c.

APPLEBY.

WILLIAM BUSHE, *Keeper.*

Rev. JAMES METCALFE, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 6.

NO allowance whatever. The Keeper says they are perishing with hunger, and that he had no knowledge of our Institution!

AYLESBURY.

HENRY SHERIFF, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. HOPKINS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 14.

ONE pound of bread allowed, and one pint of soup to each per day. Sherriff, the gaoler, would not send any account of the persons in his custody, till after I wrote to the acting magistrate.

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

BATH.GEORGE GRIFFIN, *Keeper.**No Chaplain.***DEBTOR 1.**

No allowance, unless it be certified to the Chamber of the city that they are in want; then sixpence per day to each.

BEAUMARIS.WILLIAM HOPSON, *Keeper.**No Chaplain.***DEBTORS 4.**

No allowance whatever. It does not appear that the knowledge of our Institution had ever reached this gaol.

BEDFORD.JOHN HOWARD, *Keeper.*Rev. THOMAS CAVE, *Chaplain.***DEBTORS 4.**

Two quartern loaves per week to each.

BERWICK.

GEORGE ROBINSON, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 3.

To freemen fourpence per day; to non-freemen twopence-halfpenny each. The knowledge of our Institution seems never to have reached this gaol.

BEVERLY, Hall-Garth.

WILLIAM LUNDIE, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

BODMIN.

JAMES CHAPPLE, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. MORGAN, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 9.

To those who are certified by the minister and churchwardens of their parish, as being paupers, the allowance is 20 ounces of bread per day, and half a pound of meat on Sundays. The knowledge of our Institution appears not to have reached

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

this gaol, till my Letter of Enquiries in March 1800. The new *Board of Instructions* is since received, and fixed up, as directed, in the prison.

BOROUGH COMPTER.

JOHN FROST, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

The prisoners here are chiefly from the Courts of Conscience, and their whole allowance is a twopenny loaf per day.

BRECON.

WALTER WATKINS, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN JONES, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 6.

Allowance one pound of bread per day. This gaol likewise knew nothing of our Society till May 1800.

BRISTOL.

WILLIAM HUMPHRIES, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOSEPH WALCAM, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 15.

No allowance.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

JOHN ORRIDGE, Keeper.

Rev. SIMON PRYKE, Chaplain.

DEBTORS 10.

To certificated debtors, one pound and half of bread each, per day. Mr. Orridge, the keeper, appears to be humane and intelligent. He concludes his letter to me thus; "I shall ever cheerfully give my services in the cause of benevolence and humanity."

CAERMARTHEN.

THOMAS CALKIN, Keeper.

Rev. THOMAS PRICE, Chaplain.

DEBTORS 5.

No allowance.

CAERNARVON.

WILLIAM GRIFFITH, Keeper.

Rev. JOHN PUGH, Chaplain.

DEBTORS 2.

To certificated debtors, the county allowance is two shillings per week. Mr. Pugh officiates gratuitously.

CAMBRIDGE CASTLE.

WILLIAM GREGORY, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. HOMES, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 11.

No allowance; but when in extreme poverty, upon solicitation of the gaoler, the justices order seven pounds twelve ounces of bread to each per week.

CAMBRIDGE TOWN GAOL.

THOMAS ADAMS, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

No allowance.

CANTERBURY.

EVAN JONES, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

A three penny loaf per day, if proved to have no property.

The Rev. Mr. Gostling frequently attends.

CONFINED FOR DEBT.

CARDIFF.

THOMAS MORGAN, *Keeper.*

Rev. J. JONES, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 10.

Two shillings allowed to each, per week.

CARDIGAN.

WILLIAM LANGDON, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN EVANS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 5.

No allowance; nor does it appear that the knowledge of our Society had ever reached this goal.

CARLISLE, *City and County.*

THOMAS LEAKE WILSON, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. MARK, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 28.

To certificated debtors, the county allowance, to most, is one shilling per week; to some nine pence.

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

CHELMSFORD.

ROBERT PURNELL, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. MORGAN, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 17.

ONE pound and half of Bread per day, and one quart of small beer.

CHESTER CASTLE.

FAITHFUL THOMAS, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. HILL, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 35.

THE allowance is sixpenny worth of bread, per *week*. The gaoler appears to be a humane man, from his particularly recommending the objects in real distress.

CHESTER CITY, North-Gate.

JOHN WILBRAHAM, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. JOHNSON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 4.

ONE pound of bread each per day.

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COLCHESTER.

JOHN HARDY, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

THE knowledge of our Society appears never to have reached this gaol !

COLD-BATH FIELDS.

THOMAS ARIS, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. EVANS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 3.

THE debtors in this prison are from the Court of Conscience. They have a large room to themselves, with boarded floor and fire-place ; a bed, blanket, and coverlet ; one pound of bread per day ; and, if very poor and distressed, the extra prison allowance also.

COVENTRY.

BASIL GOODE, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 2.

No allowance.

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

DERBY, County.

WILLIAM EATON, *Keeper.*

Rev. ELLIS HENRY, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 18.

Two Shillings each per week, with permission to work, and no deduction from their earnings.

DEVIZES.

JOSEPH DRAPER, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

Court of Conscience debtors only are sent hither; and there is no allowance.

DOLGELLY.

RICE EDWARDS, *Keeper.*

Rev. EVAN HERBERT, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 5.

If the debtor belongs to the parish in which the gaol is situated, he is allowed from the parish eighteen pence per week; if of another parish, the county allowance is two shillings weekly. This gaol seems never to have known of our Society.

CONFINED FOR DEBT.

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DOVER, Town Gaol.

WILLIAM HARRIS, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

No allowance.

DOVER-CASTLE.

JAMES HAWKER, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 6.

No allowance. The prisoners have at last got a small yard to walk in, which was long wanted.

DORCHESTER.

GEORGE ANDREWS, *Keeper.*

Rev. THOMAS BRYER, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 7.

Those who work on account of the gaol-fund are allowed the county bread, one pound and an half per day, and half their earnings; otherwise they must maintain themselves.

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

DURHAM.

J. WOLFE, *Keeper.*

Rev. JAMES DEASON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 14.

By the gaoler's letter, dated first of April, 1800, it is stated, that they had no knowledge here of our Institution! The debtors have no allowance.

EXETER, Sheriff's Ward.*

JOHN JUTSUM, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 33.

No allowance whatever.

FISHERTON-ANGER, Salisbury.

JAMES WAIGHT, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN MALHAM, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 17.

No allowance.

* See *SOUTH-GATE.*

FLEET.

JOHN EYLES, Esq. *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN MANLY WOOD, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 230.

No allowance.

FLINT.

ROBERT WILLIAMS, *Keeper.*

Rev. GEORGE DAVIS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 2.

None but the county allowance of two shillings and six-pence per week, out of which one shilling is deducted for a bed. Our Society does not appear to have been ever known in this gaol.

GILTSPUR-STREET, Ludgate.

J. A. NEWMAN, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN ROSE, *Chaplain.*—Salary £.50 per Ann.

DEBTORS 28.

Allowance, twelve ounces of bread, daily, from the corporation of London; and eight stone of beef, weekly, from the Lord Mayor.

Extract of a Letter received from Mr. Newman,
dated 15 April, 1800.

[His list of prisoners closes with the name of James Daugherty,
confined for £ 1. 6s. 6d.]

“ I BEG leave to observe, that the *last* is one of that class
“ of poor labouring men, who are frequently almost ruined by
“ their imprisonment for such small sums, by losing their places,
“ and their families being left to starve; not only during their
“ confinement, but also until they can afterwards get into em-
“ ploy; and which might, in a great measure, be prevented, by
“ a prompt tender of about *ten shillings in the pound* to their
“ plaintiffs, at the time of commitment; who also, being poor
“ persons, would, for the most part, accept the same, rather than
“ lose the whole by confining their debtors for *six weeks*. It will
“ require four of your Society’s painted boards, that all the
“ debtors in this compter may be benefited thereby, there being
“ four distinct divisions for debtors; but if one is hung up in
“ the chapel, it will answer the purpose, and be one inducement
“ to attend divine service: and I could wish that all benefit to
“ prisoners came through the same medium; as it might tend to
“ improve their morals, by making all their temporal benefits, in
“ some measure, arise from a due attention to their duty towards
“ their Creator. I shall at all times be much gratified by being

"made one of the many instruments of the Society's benevolence."

GILTSPUR-STREET COMPTER.

J. A. NEWMAN, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. EDMAND, *Chaplain.*—Salary £.50 per Ann.

DEBTORS 49.

Allowance, &c, as follows; from Mr. Newman's statement, by letter of the 12th April, 1800. "To common-side debtors only, the annual sum of fifty pounds, at unequal quarterly payments; or sometimes more, as one of the bequests is payable only once in three years: about two shillings per week in bread; and part of the forfeitures of offenders against penal statutes, which are sometimes distributed amongst the prisons by the Lord Mayor and other city magistrates: all which several donations are delivered to one of the prisoners, who acts as steward for the rest, and who advances money upon the credit of the said donations; out of which he reimburses himself, as the same becomes due. He pays five per cent. to a collector, and furnishes the charity wards with a constant supply of coals, wood, salt, candles, mops, brooms, and a news-paper; besides paying a weekly allowance to a basket-woman, to collect broken victuals at the taverns, and for other messages on account of such charity wards. The steward also contributes towards the support of

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such common-side debtors, as may, by the surgeon's order, be placed in the sick ward; pays also a weekly allowance to the scavenger, and to his assistant, called the twelver. The steward is sometimes in danger of losing the money advanced by him, for want of a legal authority to recover the same.

The Sheriffs give seven stone of beef every Saturday to the charity wards; which is distributed, in equal shares, to such common-side debtors, as have attended, and properly demeaned themselves in the chapel, during divine service on the preceding Sunday.

The *permanent gifts* to prisoners of all descriptions, including the said debtors, are fourteen ounces of bread daily to each: one pound of beef, one pint of porter, and one loaf at three halfpence, at Christmas, to each prisoner: the same on New-year's day, at Easter, and on some uncertain days soon after, by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, who also occasionally give coals.

Money is also given by several of the city companies, and others, towards the release of debtors, to a considerable amount; and is most frequently applied for by such of the debtors as cannot obtain their discharge without undertaking to pay a certain sum by instalments;" and who, therefore, *cannot avail themselves of our Institution, which requires a receipt in full.*

GLoucester, County.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM, *Keeper.*

Rev. EDWARD JONES, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 25.

No allowance, except to those debtors who are certificated as deserving objects, and thus entitled to have each one pound and a half of bread, and one penny, daily. Of this gaol the second Rule is remarkable, and exemplary.

Rule II. "Any debtor, inclined to work, shall be employed, on application to the keeper, or manufacturer; and shall be paid two third parts of his daily earnings: and the risque of sale of the articles so manufactured shall remain with the county."

GOSPORT, or CHEYNE COURT.

JOHN HANDLEY, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

No allowance, except to paupers, upon application to the Court.

HALIFAX.**JOHN FIELDING, *Keeper.****No Chaplain.***DEBTORS 13.**

All the allowance is *forty shillings* worth of bread, *per annum*, be the number of debtors great or small; one twelfth part of which is sent in every month*.

HAVERFORD-WEST.**RICHARD GRIFFITH, *Keeper.*****Rev. JOHN THOMAS, *Chaplain.*****DEBTORS 3.**

No allowance. This gaol knew nothing of our Society till April, 1800.

* N.B. One of the prisoners [J. H——ll], confined on the 29th March, 1796, was since discharged by his plaintiff: but, being a soldier when taken to prison, his son enlisted, upon condition of his father's military discharge; which not being yet obtained, the debtor dares not leave the prison!

*HEREFORD, County.**JAMES GRAY, Keeper.**Rev. Mr. UNDERWOOD, Chaplain.***DEBTORS 10.**

No allowance. Mr. Cam, the surgeon, when he finds it necessary, allows, from a point of humanity, every thing that is wanting.

*HEREFORD, City.**JOHN THOMAS, Keeper.**No Chaplain.***DEBTOR 1.**

No allowance. The gaoler "understood that our Society did not extend its benevolence to this prison." Letter, 17 April, 1800.

*HERTFORD.**C. WILLSON, Keeper.**Rev. JAMES MOORE, Chaplain.***DEBTORS 8.**

No allowance whatever.

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

HORSHAM.

SAMUEL SMART, *Keeper.*

Rev. WILLIAM JAMESON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 7.

No allowance whatever.

HULL. See ***KINGSTON***, page 23.

HUNTINGDON.

JAMES DRAGE, *Keeper.*

Rev. ISAAC NICHOLSON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 5.

The debtors have the county allowance of four half-quartern loaves, or nine pounds of bread, *weekly.*

ILCHESTER.

EDWARD SCADDING, *Keeper.*

Rev. THOMAS REES, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 28.

From a legacy of Mr. Nelson, the poorest debtors in this gaol have fifty shillings at Midsummer, yearly. No other allowance specified.

IPSWICH.

JOHN RIPSHAW, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN SHARP, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 7.

At a meeting of the trustees of Mr. Pemberton's charity, 17th July, 1780, it was ordered, "That the treasurer shall provide, as the trustees shall see fit, for the debtors imprisoned in any of the gaols in the county of Suffolk, either for their relief therein, by a proportion of bread, meat, and beer, as he shall think necessary, or for the delivering them out of prison. Nevertheless, such debtors, in Ipswich gaol, as do not regularly attend divine service (unless prevented by sickness, or some reasonable cause, to be allowed of by the chaplain), and behave decently and reverently, shall not have any benefit or allowance from this charity."

The allowance for debtors is about two pounds of beef each on Sundays; a pint of beer, and a twopenny loaf.

KING'S BENCH.

WILLIAM JONES, Esq. *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. EVANS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 400.

Of the debtors here noticed, *eighteen* are those on the *com-*

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

*mon side**. Their average number, for the last twelve months, has been twenty-two ; and the share, to each, out of the weekly collections at the gate, hath amounted to one shilling. There are also four quarterly distributions made to them, as follow :

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Lady Day.—	County Money	15	0	0			
	Chamberlain	2	10	0			
	Lady Bertie's gift	1	12	0			
					19	2	0
Midsummer.—	County Money	15	0	0			
	Chamberlain,	2	10	0			
					17	10	0
Michaelmas.—	County Money	15	0	0			
	Chamberlain	2	10	0			
	Mercers' Company	1	12	5			
					19	2	5
Christmas.—	County, and Chamberlain .	17	10	0			
	Fishmongers' Company ..	0	3	4			
					17	13	4
	Carried up,	73	7	9			

* About 380 debtors, on the *master's side*, not intending to avail themselves of the benefit of our Institution, desired that their names might not be inserted in the gaol lists kept by the Society in Craven-Street. They are, therefore, not noticed here.

CONFINED FOR DEBT.

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	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought up,				73	7	9
Mr. Hacket's gift	0	13	4			
Mr. Morris's ditto	0	3	4			
Grocers' Company, gift of Sir J. Peachy	0	5	0			
Salters' Company, gift of Mr. Garrett ..	0	6	8			
Mr. Horne	0	5	0			
Churchwardens of St. Sepulchre's	0	10	0			
Brass money, per annum, one pound, paid by Mr. Buckeridge, of Orchard-Street, who calls after Christmas to pay it ; deducting, if he requires it, four shil- lings for land tax	0	16	0			
				2	19	4
Total, per annum, £.	76	7	1			

KINGSTON UPON HULL.

R. RAINES BAINES, *Keeper.*

DEBTORS 4.

No stated chaplain ; but the Rev. Mr. Bromley, vicar of Holy Trinity, frequently attends. The allowance, to paupers, is two shillings and four-pence *per week.*

KINGSTON, Surrey.

B. SERJEANT, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE.

WILLIAM ELLISON, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

No allowance whatever. In a letter, dated 29th June, 1800, the only prisoner here was William Emsley, committed for debt 30th June, 1799, who says, " Any person wishing to see him, upon obtaining the gaoler's leave, must pass through six doors: the yard he has to walk in is only six yards by four: the window and wall so high, that he has very little light, or air. He had a fellow-prisoner, but he only lived ten weeks; and the preservation of his own life was owing to the gratuitous attendance of Surgeons Day and Dent." Emsley's debt was £ 28. 12s. 0d.

*LANCASTER CASTLE.*JOHN HIGGIN, *Keeper.*Rev. JOHN WOODROW, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 87.

Allowance, only one shilling *per week*, in bread, or potatoes.

Ad. Unsworth, one of the prisoners in the castle, by letter of the 19th of July, sent with a petition to the Society, says :
" Your petitioner is, and has been since his confinement here,
" in a situation wanting the common necessities of life: and,
" had it not been for the *well-known goodness and humanity of*
" *the keeper of the gaol*, he, as well as many others, would pro-
" bably, 'ere this, have paid the debt of nature." Fees for
debtors were here abolished in 1784, by consent of the sheriff,
at the request of the magistrates of the county: hence none are
taken of our Society; and an adequate salary is allowed to the
keeper.

*LEICESTER, County.*JOHN SIMONS, *Keeper.*Rev. Mr. ANDERSON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 18.

Allowance, one pound six ounces of bread, per day, and
three pints of small beer.

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*LEICESTER, Borough.**WELBY OWSTON, Keeper.**Rev. THOMAS ROBINSON, Chaplain.***DEBTORS 2.**

Allowance, sixpennyworth of bread, every other day, but no beer.

*LENTON, late BASFORD.**GEORGE WOMBWELL, Keeper.**No Chaplain.***DEBTORS 2.**

No allowance. The knowledge of our Institution seems never to have reached this gaol.

*LINCOLN CASTLE.**JOHN MERRYWEATHER, Keeper.**Rev. WILLIAM PEARSON, Chaplain.***DEBTORS 14.**

To certificated debtors, one pound and a half of good household bread per day, and one pound of good beef, without bone, per week, each. The bread is delivered three times in the week, in loaves of three pounds and a half each.

LITCHFIELD.**JOHN PRICKETT, *Keeper.****No Chaplain.***DEBTOR 1.**

Allowance, if paupers, four-pence per day. The gaoler, by his letter, 28 Mar. 1800, says, that our Society was till then unknown in the gaol of this city!

LIVERPOOL.**EDWARD FRODSHAM (Serjeant at Mace), *Keeper.*****Rev. GEORGE MONK, *Chaplain.*****DEBTORS 45.**

Those debtors, who have neither property nor friends, receive from the town, each, *three pence per day*, and coals.

LOSTWITHIEL.**BERNARD WESTLAKE, *Keeper.****No Chaplain.***DEBTORS 0.**

No allowance.

LYNN REGIS.

WILLIAM HAWES, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

No allowance specified.

MACCLESFIELD.

MAURICE JONES, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

No allowance but water. The knowledge of our Institution appears never to have reached this gaol, till March, 1800.

MAIDSTONE.

THOMAS WATSON, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN LLOYD, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 19.

Allowance, a half-quartern loaf every other day, and one quart of small beer daily: But when a debtor has obtained his six pences, he has no allowance of bread.

MARSHALSEA.

JOHN EVANS, *Deputy Marshal.*

Rev. Mr. TROLLOPE, *Chaplain.*—Salary £.50 per Ann.

DEBTORS 30.

The debtors confined on the common side of this prison partake equally of all the charities which are brought thither. They have £4. 10s. 0d. divided amongst them every lunar month; and each receives an allowance of two or three pounds of meat on Saturdays. Sixty penny loaves are given them every six weeks, and £2. 10s. 0d. divided quarterly. Some other donations, of beef, coals, &c. are shared between them; but these, for the most part, are in the winter. Some of them are legacies left by different persons for that purpose, of the claim to which the prisoners are in possession; and others are voluntary gifts, sent occasionally by the humane and benevolent: all of which go to the common side of the prison. The building itself is in a most ruinous and insecure state: the habitations of the debtors are wretched in the extreme.

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MONMOUTH.

THOMAS PHILLIPS, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN POWELL, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 11.

They have one pound and a half of bread per day. The county allowance, to certificated debtors, is one shilling per week. Some few are occasionally allowed a shilling weekly, besides the county allowance of bread.

MONTGOMERY.

JOHN DAVIS, *Keeper.*

Rev. CHARLES WILLIAMS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 5.

Allowance, four-pence per day to each, distributed in bread. Till March, 1800, the knowledge of our Institution does not appear to have reached this gaol.

MORPETH.

JOHN BLAKE, *Keeper.*

Rev. EDWARD NICHOLSON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 6.

The county allowance, to certificated debtors, is fourteen pence per week.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

JOHN GALE, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. MOISES, }
Rev. Mr. PERKINS, } *Chaplains.*

DEBTORS 5.

Allowance, upon petitioning the magistrate, is fourteen pence per week. The chaplains officiate monthly, in turn: prayers twice a week, and a sermon in each month.

NEW GAOL, Borough.

Mr. IVES, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. WINCKWORTH, *Chaplain.*—Salary £.50 per Ann.

DEBTORS 46.

One pound of bread per day, to common-side debtors only; none on the master's side. This building is the best constructed, for the security and health of the prisoners, of any that I ever saw; and, to the credit of Mr. Ives, the keeper, I may add, that for cleanliness and good order it is worthy of imitation.

Since my last visit to this gaol, on the 20th August, 1800, I am informed that the admirable order and regularity, so conspicuously manifest in every department, is especially owing to the great care and attention of certain respectable gentlemen, chosen

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at the quarter-sessions; who form themselves into a committee, and superintend the concerns of the prison.

NEWGATE.

JOHN KIRBY, *Keeper.*

Rev. Dr. BROWNLOW FORDE, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 213.

The city allows every prisoner in the gaol fourteen ounces of the best bread daily, which is paid for by the chamberlain. Be their number more or less, they have eight stone of beef weekly, without bone, such as clods and stickings, which is paid for by the sheriffs.

There are also sundry donations to the debtors, paid at different periods, and equally divided amongst them; viz.

	£.	s.	d.
Lady-day quarter	16	2	2
Midsummer ditto	4	18	8
Michaelmas ditto	6	15	4
Christmas ditto	23	14	10
Total . . £.	51	11	0

N. B. Mr. Kirby, consistent with his wonted humanity, charges none of them any thing for room rent.

The following document is a list of what are called “Court of Conscience debtors;” of the times of their commitment to Newgate; and of the charges accumulated for costs upon very inconsiderable demands. Reverence for existing law precludes from saying more than

“ Pity it is, 'tis true !”

<i>Date of Warrants.</i>	<i>Defendants' Names.</i>	<i>Debts.</i>	<i>Costs.</i>
1797.		s. d.	s. d.
February 7..	John Allen	3 5 . . .	8 8
May 11..	William Gough	3 10 . . .	8 10
October 15..	Thomas Blackburn ..	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$. . .	6 10
	Ditto	1 5 . . .	6 10
December 14..	Ann Jones	2 3 . . .	8 10
1798.			
April 12..	Charles Burnett	3 10 . . .	8 10
September 20..	Thomas Blackburn ..	2 6 . . .	8 10
November 9..	Elizabeth Irvine	3 9 . . .	8 8
1799.			
August 15..	Caleb Only	3 9 . . .	8 10
22..	Thomas Dobson ...	1 0 . . .	8 10
September 1..	John Hyder	3 10 . . .	8 8
October 1..	Susannah Evans	2 2 . . .	8 8
17..	William Owen	3 0 . . .	8 8
1800.			
March 13..	Abraham Slater	3 4 . . .	6 10
July 24..	John Jones,	3 0 . . .	6 10

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

NORTHAMPTON, County.

JOHN SCOFIELD, *Keeper.*

Rev. EDWARD MILLER, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 11.

No allowance whatever.

NORTHAMPTON, Town.

ROBERT ROBERTS, *Keeper.*

Rev. JOHN STODDART, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 2.

No allowance.

NORWICH, Castle.

EDWARD AMOND, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. HANSELL, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 30.

One pound and a half of bread per day; half a pound of cheese per week; and one bushel of coals weekly to each room.

NORWICH, City.

EDWARD SHARPE, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. MILLARD, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 6.

Twenty ounces of bread daily; two chaldrons of coals per annum, and some other occasional allowances from the corporation.

NOTTINGHAM, County.

JOHN THOMPSON, *Keeper.*

Rev. WILLIAM GILL, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 7.

Fourteen ounces of bread per day; and one shilling per week, in coals, amongst them.

NOTTINGHAM, Town.

RICHARD BONINGTON, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 5.

No other allowance than one shilling per week, for coals, amongst them.

OAKHAM.

WILLIAM SEWELL, *Keeper.*

Rev. RICHARD WILLIAMS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 3.

The knowledge of our Institution appears never to have reached this gaol till April, 1800. The debtors are not allowed small beer. Their pittance for bread, formerly, was only three half pence per day; but the magistrates, at the late quarter-session, ordered them to have a threepenny loaf each, daily, in future.

OUSEBRIDGE, York.

RICHARD MEGGISON, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 5.

Sixpennyworth of bread, per week, amongst the whole number, great or small; being the gift of Mr. William Edmondson. One guinea, and one chaldron of coals, every Christmas; and the sum of three pounds four shillings yearly.

OXFORD, Castle.

DAVID HARRIS, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. GRAHAM, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 17.

No allowance, but from different incidental charities.

OXFORD, City.

THOMAS WHARTON, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. PINSON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 3.

No allowance whatever.

PENRHYN.

No debtors confined here. See *BODMIN.*

PENZANCE.

HUMPHRY BRIDGEMAN, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

No allowance whatever. This prison is in a back yard, about fourteen feet square, with one iron-barred window, and a

small necessary-room in one corner. It belongs to Lord Arundel, whose hog-stye it is said is a palace to it. The knowledge of our Institution appears never to have reached this wretched gaol till April, 1800.

PETERBOROUGH.

WILLIAM MILLWOOD, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

Prisoners are seldom detained in this gaol longer than a few days.

PLYMOUTH.

THOMAS TATAM,
JOHN PARRY, }
G. PARDON, } Serjeants at Mace, *Keepers.*

DEBTORS 5.

The allowance to debtors is three pennyworth of bread every morning. There is no chaplain: but, if one is required, the vicar, or the lecturer, of the parish of St. Andrew attends; who are both of them appointed by the corporation. It does not appear that the knowledge of our Institution ever reached this gaol till April, 1800.

POOLE.**WILLIAM ARNEY, *Keeper.****No Chaplain.***DEBTORS 0.**Knew nothing of our Society till April, 1800.

PORTRSMOUTH.**GEORGE LUSCOMBE, *Keeper.****No Chaplain.***DEBTORS 5.**

To those debtors who are paupers, the allowance is six-pence per day. When a debtor becomes entitled to his sixpences from the plaintiff, in case the payment of them is omitted, he is discharged the next court-day, without expence. The court is held every Tuesday.

POULTRY COMPTER.**JOHN TEAGUE, *Keeper.*****Rev. Mr. DAVIS, (who attends every Sunday,) *Chaplain.***

Salary £.50 per Ann.

DEBTORS 32.

The common-side debtors have each fourteen ounces of bread per day, and six stone of beef divided amongst them every

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

Saturday; besides a collection of broken victuals from the different taverns and eating-houses about the Exchange, the London tavern, the George and Vulture, the Cock eating-house, &c. And, much to the honour of his humanity, Mr. Deputy Birch, of Cornhill, has for many years sent, every day, the hot stewed beef and veal, from which soups and gravy are made. A sum of near eighty pounds is also collected yearly, and distributed once a quarter among the common-side debtors.

Those on the master's side have rooms and beds to themselves, which the keeper furnishes at 2s. 6d. per week; but these have no part of any charity, except it be particularly ordered by the donor.

The keeper of the Poultry Compter appears to be a humane man. The prison is clean, but very close and crowded. To give the debtors and felons air, they are taken, alternately, upon the leaded roof. It is in a very ruinous and insecure state.

On my visiting this prison the 20th August, 1800, I found two children, who had been sent there some months before, as vagrants. No crime was alledged against them. The eldest boy appeared to be about thirteen; and ever since their commitment they had been confined with the felons! A letter to the lord mayor procured me an immediate answer from his lordship, assuring me that he would directly inquire into, and redress the

grievance. Mr. Teague the keeper's letter, of 27th August, says, " The right honourable the lord mayor having favoured me with your very humane letter, addressed to his lordship, in behalf of the Boys confined in the Felons' ward, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that his lordship has recommended them to the Marine Society. The committee of city lands do not meet on business this month; but, as soon as they do, an immediate application will be made, to make some alteration in the prison, for the better accommodation and separation of the Vagrants from the Felons' ward."

READING.

G. KNIGHT, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. HODGKINSON, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 10.

Three bushels of coals in the winter, per week. Sir Charles Marsh, visiting magistrate, in consequence of the dearness of provisions, has ordered a loaf of one pound and a half to be given to the poor debtors every other day, and two pounds of potatoes to each, every other alternate day.

N. B. The allowance for coals is from the magistrates' fees.

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

RICHMOND, Yorkshire.

ROBERT WRIGHT, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 6.

One shilling's worth of bread per week.

RIPPON.

ROBERT BRAITHWAIT, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

No allowance whatever. The knowledge of our Institution does not appear to have reached this gaol till April, 1800.

ROCHESTER.

EDWARD EBRIGHT, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

Knew nothing of our Society till April, 1800!

ROTHWELL.

FRANCIS METCALFE, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 31.

No allowance whatever.

RUTHIN.

HUMPHRY JONES, *Keeper.*

Rev. RICHARD JONES, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 5.

County allowance, two shillings per week. Our Society seems to have been unknown at this gaol till March, 1800.

ST. ALBAN'S, Borough.

JAMES DRAYTON, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

No allowance. Knew not of our Institution till May, 1800.

ACCOUNT OF PERSONS

ST. ALBAN'S, Liberty.

SAMUEL LINES, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTOR 1.

No allowance. Our Society equally unknown here!

ST. BRIAVEL'S.

WILLIAM CLOSS, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

No allowance specified.

ST. PETER'S, York.

JOHN BURNLEY, Keeper.

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

No allowance whatever, except water.

SALISBURY. See FISHERTON ANGER.

SCARBOROUGH.

LUKE SMELT, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 4.

No allowance, unless to paupers.

SHREWSBURY.

RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, *Keeper.*

Rev. W. G. ROWLANDS, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 23.

One pound six ounces of bread each per day.

N. B. Mr. Cartwright takes no fees from debtors; a compensation is allowed him.

SOUTHAMPTON.

J. JOHNSON TRUSS, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 3.

Debtors who have no property, or who cannot earn any thing in their confinement, are allowed 3s. 6d. per week by the county: but if they can, nothing is allowed.

SOUTH GATE, Exeter.*

THOMAS DODGE, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 6.

Four shillings and three-pence halfpenny per week (from a legacy), if one prisoner; and no more is allowed, if there were twenty!

STAFFORD.

JOHN HARRIS, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. RATHBONE, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 21.

From the county each debtor has one pound of good wheaten bread every day, with one halfpennyworth of new milk (about two thirds of a pint) daily; one pound of cheese, and two pennyworth of potatoes, every week. It is intended to make the potatoes for each debtor seven pounds per week, be the price what it may.

N. B. Debtors who receive the sixpences from their plaintiffs have no county allowance for food.

* See *EXETER*, page 6.

TOTHILL FIELDS.

A. FENWICK, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. BENNET, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 0.

The debtors at any time confined here are from the courts of conscience: they have no allowance whatever; and their situation is very deplorable.

WARWICK.

HENRY TATNALL, *Keeper.*

Rev. HUGH LANGHARNE, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 32.

Allowance, one pound and a half of bread per day.

WHITECHAPEL.

JOHN SIMPSON, *Keeper.*

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS 0.

No allowance whatever; and, formerly, not even water, without paying for it. Mr. Simpson, in his letter, dated 23d May, 1800, says; “ The prisoners in general, who are confined in this prison, are for small sums, and mostly very

poor. Many of them, of late, would have applied to the Society for relief, but from the idea that the prisoners of this court did not come under the cognizance of the Society; which, I confess, I myself understood was the case."

Upon my visiting this prison the 23d of August, 1800, I found it clean and healthy; Mr. Simpson, the gaoler, having raised the court-yard, partly paved it, and laid the water on at his own expence.

N.B. Our new board of Instructions is conspicuously fixed here.

WINCHESTER.

JOHN WHITE, *Keeper.*

Rev. NICHOLAS WESTCOMB, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 19.

Those on the common side have each seventeen ounces of bread per day, and a joint of meat on Sundays, from the county. No allowance on the master's side. In all cases where our Society grant relief, no fees are taken.

WINDSOR, Castle.

No debtors are confined here now. Previous to the abolition of the gaol, as a prison for persons in debt, there was a *tap-room* within it, in which a soldier murdered his keeper, and likewise shot another soldier, before he was shot himself.

WORCESTER, City.

EDWARD NOTT, *Keeper.*

Rev. Mr. DAVENPORT, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 8.

The keeper, in his letter, dated 27th March, 1800, says ;
" No person arrested by virtue of a writ issued out of the court of pleas of the city of Worcester has ever been able to derive an advantage under the Lords' act. I know of no allowance to debtors here, that is not gratuitous on the part of the magistrates."

WORCESTER, Castle.

WILLIAM DAVIS, *Keeper.*

Rev. WILLIAM FALKNER, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 10.

" No allowance, except the party applies to the visiting magistrates, to swear to his or her last settlement ; and then, if

the parish is within the county, they will make an order to allow the prisoner a weekly sum. If it is out of the magistrates' jurisdiction, they cannot make an order. The utmost I ever remember to have been allowed was two shillings and sixpence." Mr. Davis's letter, 15th September, 1800.

YARMOOUTH.

RICHARD HELSDON, *Keeper.* /

No Chaplain.

DEBTORS O.

Twopennyworth of bread each per day, and the use of a common fire. Mr. Helsdon says, in his letter, dated March, 1800, "I make it a matter of option with all prisoners, both debtors and felons, to attend divine service on the evening of the sabbath; when I read to them that portion of the liturgy of the church of England appointed for the day, and afterwards a sermon; at which time they have constantly attended."

And yet, it does not appear that, till March last, the knowledge of our Institution had ever reached this gaol!

YORK, Castle.

WILLIAM STAVELEY, *Keeper.*

Rev. GEORGE BROWN, *Chaplain.*

DEBTORS 73.

One sixpenny loaf of bread, every Tuesday and Friday, to those debtors who obtain a certificate of their poverty from the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the parish to which they belong.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE AUTHOR of the foregoing pages intending, with GOD's assistance, to devote the short remaining period of his life in promoting the views of that most excellent Institution, for the Relief of Persons imprisoned for Small Debts, will thankfully receive any communications from the magistrates, the humane keepers of prisons, and the well-disposed in general, throughout the various parts of the kingdom.

THE END.

